

REMARKS

Claims 59-84 have been canceled and claims 85-106 have been added. Therefore, claims 48-58 and 85-106 are pending and at issue.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment presents no new issues or new matter and places this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

I. **The Rejection of Claims 59-84 under 35 U.S.C. 112**

Claims 59-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite. The Office provided the following objections.

1. Objection to the phrase "any amino acid susceptible to oxidation," recited in claim 59,
2. Objection to the phrase "any Trp at the surface," recited in claim 59,
3. Objection to the amino acid substitutions E143A, E151A, E202A, D96A, D103A, D152A, D161A and D173A recited in claim 65,
4. Objection to the amino acid substitutions for Met at positions 144 and 171 recited in claim 70,
5. Objection to the amino acid substitutions for Trp at position 142 recited in claim 73, and
6. Objection to the amino acid substitutions for Tyr at positions 95, 112, 157, 158, 186 and 306, recited in claims 76 and 77.

Claims 59-84 have been rewritten as claims 85-106 to address this rejection. Applicants therefore submit that this rejection has been overcome.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

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